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TABLE 5

POPULATION DENSITY IN THE BALTIC STATES

	AREA (*Sq. mi.*)	POPULATION	INHABITANTS PER SQ. MI.
Lithuania until March 22, 1939	21,489	2,575,363	117.6
Lithuania after loss of Klaipeda (Memel) Territory	20,389	2,421,570	118.6
Lithuania after the return of Vilnius	22,958	2,879,070	125.4
Latvia (in 1938)	25,395 [a]	1,971,000	78.7 [c]
Estonia (in 1938)	18,354 [b]	1,131,000	61.6 [d]

[a] 65,791 sq. km.
[b] 47,549 sq. km.
[c] 30 per sq. km.
[d] 23.8 per sq. km.

Lithuania has rich deposits of chalk which prove satisfactory for the making of cement, lime, and alabaster, but this industry is still undeveloped. Clay, suited for the ceramic industry, is to be found all over the country, while the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea has been known since ancient times for its amber, "northern gold."

CLIMATE

The climate of Lithuania is of the modified humid continental type. The average temperature is 6.5° Celsius (43.7° Fahrenheit), the warmest month being July, with an average temperature 18.3° Celsius (64.9° F.), and the coldest, January, with an average temperature of 4.8° Celsius below zero (23.4° F.). The ground is frozen for about four months.[21]

[21] C.S.B., S. Biul. 10, 1938, pp. 5–12.

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● 132 In general, the climate of Lithuania is not so favorable for the cultivating of grain crops as it is for the breeding of livestock. An effort has been made in recent years, under the guidance and encouragement of the country's leading economists, to concentrate on livestock breeding and to reduce grain crop culture. The winters in Lithuania are long, although not cold enough to affect winter crops, which are grown in substantial quantities. Heavy rainfall in the autumn aids in the germination of the winter crops. In 1935, 1,258,085 acres (509,140 hectares), or 18.98 percent of all arable land, were used for the growing of winter rye, while 8,723 acres (3,530 hectares) about 0.12 percent of the arable land, were used for spring rye. Because of the long winters and the concentration on grain culture, a great amount of man power is kept comparatively inactive for several months of the year.

[311]

133 Neringa* presents a remarkable natural wonder. It is a long strip of earth stretching several tens of kilometers to the south, separating the Baltic Sea from Kurshiu Marios (Courland Spit). It is covered in places by young woodland or low pines, and in some places magnificent sand dunes rise, which around the hamlet of Nida are the highest in Europe. Lithuania's largest river is the Nemunas (Neman). It is navigable from the Alytus. Its most important tributaries inside Lithuania are the Neris (which in turn has its tributaries Shventoiya* and Nevezys), and also the Dubysa and the Sheshupe.

The lowest parts of Lithuania are swampy. There are especially many swamps in the Siauliai area and to the west from the middle of the Nemunas.

137 Wooded surface comprised before the Second World War, 19 percent of the whole Republic. About two-thirds of the woods are coniferous, and about one-third is deciduous. Among the coniferous varieties fir trees and pines predominate. Among the deciduous varieties the ash, the birch, the aspen, and, less often, the alder and oak predominate. The meadows are covered with dense, mellow grass. The natural pastures, and also fodder grass, are the basis for the development of animal husbandry.

132 Owing to the proximity of the sea, the climate is damp and mild. There are no severe winters and no dry winds. The average annual temperature is from plus 6.5° to 7° C.; the average temperature in /5/ January is from minus 2.5° to minus 4.7°; in July it is from plus 17° to 18.6°.

162 The population of Soviet Lithuania (according to the statistics of 1940) is 3,150,000. The bulk of the population consists of Lithuanians (80 per cent). In addition there are Russians, Poles, White Russians, Jews, and Latvians.

631 Administratively Soviet Lithuania is divided into 41 uyezds, 320 volosts, and 2,774 apilinks (selsoviets).

361 The capital of the Republic is Vilnius. The city of Vilnius was founded in the tenth century and has been the capital since 1323. It is situated at the junction of the rivers Vilnele (Vileika) and Neris, on the shores of both rivers.

The largest cities of the Republic are Kaunas, Klaipeda, Siauliai, Paniveshis.

135 In the Republic there are rich resources in water power, of peat and mineral construction material.

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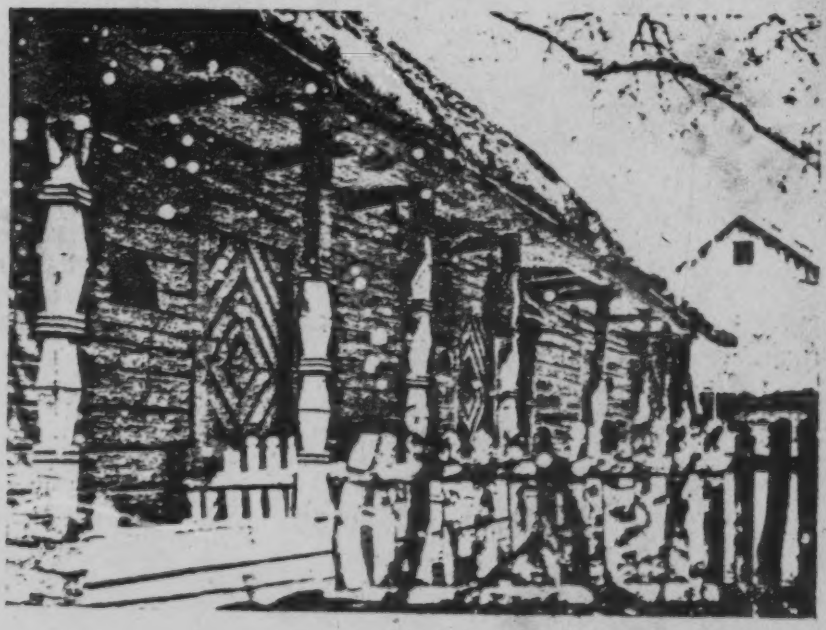
to the good, as such farms generally contribute nothing towards agricultural production and are far from being a social asset. There are no latifundia in Lithuania. The largest estate comprises about 1,000 hectares, and the larger properties exceeding 100 hectares number only 1602, or 0.56% of the total farms.

The proportion of men and women in the rural population is about equal. The country people do not go to the towns in search of work, as urban and country dwellers carry on different trades and their lives are quite separate.



An old barn.

The soil is of average fertility. In the east and south-east, there is a small area which is sandy and not very fertile, while, in the north again, a small area consists of very fertile land. The vast plains of Lithuania are covered with clay — more or less light — deposited during the Ice Age and subjected to centuries of erosion and impoverishment.

The rainfall is fairly heavy, so that much of this low-lying land necessitates drainage works. The State makes itself responsible for the large-scale regularisation of rivers and watercourses and the cutting of drainage channels. The farmers are responsible, with the help of Government subsidies, for ditching and drain-laying on water-logged land. By no means all of the land is satisfactorily drained. The yield cannot

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342 was framed to encourage the use of brick and stone for building
343 purposes, as Lithuania is not rich in timber. The plan includes the erection of stone houses for farmers and agricultural labourers and stables and byres, and provision is made for long-term credits to be granted to farmers for the purpose, at reduced rates. Care will be taken, when the plan is carried out, to see that the buildings are rationally constructed, in accordance with economic and sanitary requirements; æsthetic considerations will also be borne in mind.

133

Lithuanian landscape.